REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claim 18 has been amended. In addition, the Specification and the Abstract have been amended. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-24 remain pending in the present application. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the above-identified claims are allowable.

II. THE OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

The Examiner objected to the Abstract of the disclosure, asserting that the sentence "Determination is made whether the destination data is in a machine language" does not make sense as the word "whether" is used. (*See 5/20/05 Office Action*, page 2, ¶ 1). The abstract has been amended to modify its phrasing. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the Abstract should be withdrawn.

The Examiner objected to paragraph [0004] of the Specification because of a grammatical error in the sentence "The tracking data is recorded the computer database...." (*See 5/20/05 Office Action*, page 2, ¶ 2). The Specification has been amended to cure this defect, and thus it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the Specification should be withdrawn.

III. THE 35 U.S.C. §112 REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 10 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. (*See 5/20/05 Office Action*, page 2, ¶ 3).

The Examiner asserts that the term "recipient identifier" used in claim 10 is indefinite and not defined within the Specification. (*See 5/20/05 Office Action*, page 2, ¶ 4). The Specification, which previously included a similar term, has been amended to include this exact term and an explanation of its meaning. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 112 should be withdrawn.

The Examiner further asserts that claim 19, which depends from claim 18, is indefinite. (*See 5/20/05 Office Action*, page 2, ¶ 5). Claim 18 has been amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Therefore, it is respectfully

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submitted that claim 19 is allowable under 35 U.S.C. 112, and thus the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn.

IV.   THE 35 U.S.C. §102(b) REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,394,354 to Wilz, Sr. et al. (hereinafter "Wilz"). (*See 5/20/05 Office Action*, page 3, ¶ 6). In the Office Action, the Examiner has referred to U.S. Patent No. 6,394,354 as "Knowles"; however, upon review of this Patent, it appears this Patent should be referred as "Wilz".

Wilz discloses an Internet-based system and method for routing, tracking, and delivering packages. (*See Wilz*, Abstract). Packages are provided with bar codes containing URLs and zip code information, which may be scanned by a bar code reader to effect routing and tracking of the packages. (*See id.*). Specifically, each package is logged into a database management system, located on a server, by a package login procedure. (*See Wilz*, Col. 26, ll. 16-20). In this procedure, the server is accessed by reading a predesignated URL-encoded bar code symbol specifying its address on the Internet, package related information is entered via the internet, a custom bar code symbol label encoded with a corresponding URL is created and printed, and the label is applied to the package. (*See Wilz*, Col. 26, ll. 16-31). The database management system may contain a number of fields pertaining to the package, including a package identification number, a shipper identification number, destination information, delivery instructions, etc. (*See Wilz*, Col. 26, l. 54 - Col. 27, l. 22). As each package is transported, its bar code is scanned at package routing subsystems through which it moves, and location information of the package is updated with each scan. (*See Wilz*, Col. 29, ll. 27-51). Package related information may be viewed by reading the corresponding URL-encoded bar code symbols into an Internet browser program using a bar code scanner. (*See Wilz*, Col. 24, ll. 13-17).

Claim 1 of the present application recites "registering a user by obtaining user data; associating the user data with a unique user identifier." Claim 1 further recites "determining whether the destination data is in a machine language; translating, when the destination data is not in a machine language, the destination data into machine language" and "providing the tracking data regarding shipment progress of the item in response to a request referencing at least one of the user identifier and the destination data."

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The Examiner contends that the inclusion of a Shipper Identification Number Field in the database management system of Wilz is equivalent to *"registering a user by obtaining user data"* and "associating the user data with a unique user identifier." (*See 5/20/05 Office Action*, page 3, ¶ 8). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this contention. Identification of a shipper does not necessitate registration of the shipper. For example, it may be possible that a particular Shipper Identification Number is always assigned to anonymous shippers. The shipper would not be registered and the server would not have obtained user data. Thus, there is no teaching is Wilz that inclusion of the Shipper Identification Number Field is equivalent to "registering a user by obtaining user data" and "associating the user data with a unique user identifier."

The Examiner also contends that the step of creating and printing a custom bar code symbol label in the login procedure of Wilz is equivalent to *"determining* whether the destination data is in a machine language" and *"translating, when the destination data is not in a machine language,* the destination data into machine language." (*See 5/20/05 Office Action*, page 4, ¶ 8). Specifically, the Examiner states that creating a label in machine language inherently includes making a determination whether it is in a computer language. (*See id.*). However, in Wilz, the label containing destination data is always created in machine language (i.e., a bar code), and thus no determination need be made. Furthermore, because a determination that destination data is not in machine language is inapplicable to Wilz, translating the destination data into machine language is clearly never disclosed, either expressly or inherently.

Perhaps most notably, the Examiner contends that Wilz's disclosure of accessing Web-page based information structures via an authorized computer is equivalent to "providing the tracking data regarding shipment progress of the item *in response to a request referencing at least one of the user identifier and the destination data."* (*See 5/20/05 Office Action*, page 4, ¶ 8). However, the Examiner's contention is flawed in that Wilz nowhere discloses that one may view the information by requesting the user identifier and/or the destination data. Wilz, read at its broadest, only describes that computers and internet browsers incorporated within the routing, tracking, and delivery system may access information fields. (*See Wilz*, Col. 27, ll. 56-61). Further, Wilz only discloses that one may reach an appropriate Web location of the information by scanning the URL-encoded bar code label. (*See Wilz*, Col. 27, ll. 29-34). Thus, one wishing to

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view package information must be apprised of either the exact URL and/or must have access to the bar code label and a bar code scanner. Accordingly, Wilz nowhere teaches or suggests that tracking data may be displayed "in response to a request referencing at least one of the user identifier and the destination data."

In light of the above distinctions, it is respectfully submitted that Wilz does not anticipate claim 1 of the present application, and thus the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn. Because claims 2-12 depend from and therefore include all the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.
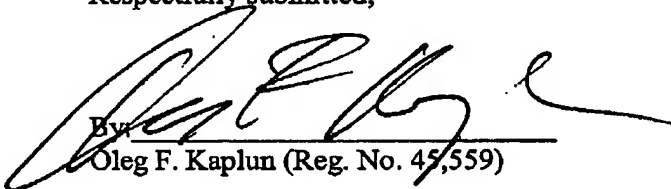
Claim 13 recites limitations which are similar to those recited in claim 1. Specifically, claim 13 recites "a second computing arrangement including a database and *storing user data in the database,* the second computing arrangement associating the user data with a unique user identifier," and "a first shipment processing arrangement... *determining whether the destination data is in a machine language and, when the destination data is not in a machine language, the first shipment processing arrangement translates the destination data* into the machine language destination data," and "tracking data... provided by the second computing arrangement *in response to a request referencing at least one of the user identifier and the destination data.*" Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 13 should be withdrawn. Because claims 14-24 depend from and therefore include all the limitations of claim 13, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and arguments, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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